

## PATTY'S PONDERINGS

# Grace, mercy, peace



**Patty Peters**  
LWML South Dakota  
District President

The LWML Prayer Service for 2024 is titled "Grace, Mercy, Peace," which is based on 1 Timothy 1:2b; 2 Timothy 1:2 and 2 John 1:3.

We often hear these three words when the pastor begins his sermon, just as St. Paul used them to begin his letters to his son in the faith, Timothy. These three words describe three blessed gifts from our Heavenly Father and our Savior, Jesus, who is true God and true man.

As believers in the Triune God, we live with *peace* in our whole being. That peace comes only from our faith in Jesus, who came to live among us, teach, heal, die on the cross, conquer death and rise from the grave, and ascend to heaven to intercede for us. It is only through Jesus' suffering and death that we receive these riches



of forgiveness and eternal life. This is God's *grace* for us. Jesus took our sins and punishment upon

Himself so that we sinners don't receive

the punishment of eternal death. This

is God's *mercy* for us. Because of these

three free gifts, we live in the joyful

response to love God and love our

neighbor.

The prayer service was written by Rev. Michael Mattil, former LWML pastoral counselor (2007-11). He

served congregations in Oklahoma

and Texas, and now in retirement he

continues to preach and serve on boards.

He also works with Habitat for Humanity,

Family Promise and Lutheran Disaster Response.

The prayer service is available as a free download at

[lwml.org/prayer-service](http://lwml.org/prayer-service). It can be used at any time

for large or small gatherings such as zone events or

local church services. Use it as another way to be

together in God's Word, to learn about His "grace,

mercy, and peace."

## Mite deadline is March 15

Spring is approaching!

So is the deadline for turning in your mite offerings for the current LWML

South Dakota District biennium.

Be sure your offerings are in the mail by March 15 in order for them to be applied to the mite goal for this biennium. Thank you in advance for all your efforts toward meeting our goal and supporting the ministries of our selected mission grants.

Blessings on your groups!

**Jan Larson**  
Vice-President of Gospel Outreach



## Make plans to attend 63rd DISTRICT CONVENTION

The 63rd LWML South Dakota District Convention will be held June 7-8 at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center in Aberdeen.

The theme is "Inexpressible Joy, Matchless Savior" and the theme verse is 1 Peter 1:8-9:

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

We are pleased to announce that speaker and author Donna Snow will be the Bible study leader. She has written over 20 Bible studies. ([cph.org/donna-pyle-snow](http://cph.org/donna-pyle-snow)).



**Donna Snow**

The Aberdeen Zone is at work on the convention committees, and we are getting excited to have you visit our city.

**Betty Ochsner**  
Convention Chairman

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

### GREETINGS

from our **Interim Pastoral Counselor**

With Pastor (Clint) Thorson having moved to the Rocky Mountain District, I've been given the opportunity to serve for a few months as a pastoral counselor for our LWML South Dakota District.

By way of introduction, I suppose I could share a number of things about myself. However, in the spirit of St. Paul's



**Rev. Aaron Asmus**

encouragement to his young friend, Timothy (in reference to Grandma Lois and Mom Eunice in 2 Tim. 1:5), I'd like to share just a couple of things about a couple of women who have had important spiritual influence in my life.

First, I thank God for my mom, Lorraine. As we grew in our family, my mom continually sang songs, read stories and Scripture to us and shared thoughts with us about who we are as God's children. She carried a gentleness in her demeanor that reflected the tender care of our Shepherd. She also helped us learn about the LWML (it was always hard as a kid to say those letters correctly) by her involvement

in several congregations that were our church families. She also served as a zone president.

I also thank God for my wife, Lisa, who faithfully carries our faith values into our daily lives together. She continually supports and encourages me in my faith. She loves our children and grandchildren with a love that reflects Jesus' love for us. Many of you are likely familiar with her as she has served in various LWML roles over the years, including district president (2016-20).

One last thought for you to consider, Lutheran Women in Mission: there are many people that you have a great opportunity to influence in a gracious way!

May God bless you in sharing the love of our Lord!

*Rev. Asmus serves as senior pastor of Memorial, Sioux Falls.*

## HURON ZONE REPORT



The Huron Zone kept busy in 2023. We met on March 5 for our Spring Rally at Mount Calvary, Wolsey, and used the 2023 Prayer Service, which was led by zone counselor Rev. Kevin Koester. We had 19 attendees (including four guests) and assembled 147 hygiene kits for Orphan Grain Train (OGT).

The ladies of St. John, Wolsey, along with a few other volunteers, helped clean Puppet Place in preparation for the South Dakota State Fair in Huron, held Aug. 31-Sept. 4.

Our Fall Rally was held Nov. 12 at Mount Calvary, Huron, with 22 in attendance. I spoke about the medical mission trip to Guatemala I attended in July with

**MOST Ministries.** Patty Peters, LWML district president, joined us, and together we assembled 70 mitten puppets for the Puppet Place.

Our congregations continue to focus on mission projects. St. John, Wolsey, assembles health kits, school kits and layette sets for OGT. Mount Calvary, Huron, sets aside days for quilting and packing clothing. Items are donated to OGT, Slumberland, and Sleep in Heavenly Peace. A quilting group at Zion,



**ABOVE:** Spring Rally attendees packed items for OGT.

**Left:** Janice Wagner (left) and her daughter, Donna Bartel, make hand puppets to be given to children at the Puppet Place.

Wessington Springs, donates quilts to local charities.

We are so thankful to our mighty Lord for all He blesses us with. We praise and serve Him with gladness!

**Ann Cruse • Huron Zone President**